

in having a larger tarse and longer toes. The throat of *P. nymphea* is more decidedly white; the green of its mantle is somewhat more yellow; and the sanguineous middle line of its belly mounts higher. Both want the white crescent on the black axillaries, but are otherwise closely allied to the *P. coronatus* group of India.

[To be continued.] 1875 114

XLIV.—*Notices of recently published Ornithological Works.*

THOSE who know the bulk and cost of our county-histories will be thankful to Mr. Mansel-Pleydell for having printed in a separate form and octavo size his natural-history contributions to the new edition of Pulteney's 'Dorsetshire,' now in course of publication. These consist of a Dorset 'Flora,' a Dorset 'Ornithology,' including a "List of the rarer birds of the County," and a similar treatise on its 'Conchology'*. Strictly speaking, we have only to do with the second of them; but the "Introduction" to the 'Flora' contains a good account of the physical geography of the district, which deserves the attention of our readers, since too many local naturalists are apt to overlook that essential coefficient of all Faunas. Dorset has hitherto not been favoured by ornithologists, and no list of its birds has appeared since Pulteney's 'Catalogue' in 1799 (?); while it has been also remarkably deficient in well-placed observers, and thus, doubtless, many a winged windfall to its coast has escaped enrolment in the "British List." Portland itself, one would think, should be another Heligoland, attracting storm-tossed stragglers from afar; yet Portland makes little figure in our author's work. Poole Harbour, with its many bays and backwaters—looking from the Lytchett heights more like a West-Indian lagoon than any thing else in this island—has, indeed, long been famous for the number of rare water-birds which have fallen

* Flora of Dorsetshire &c. By John Clavell Mansel-Pleydell, B.A., F.L.S., F.G.S. London and Blandford, 1874, 8vo, pp. 320.

Ornithology and Conchology of the County of Dorset. By the same. pp. 120.

to the craft of the numerous gunners who once frequented its shoals; and one of the valleys which thence stretches westward has yielded by far the majority of English examples of *Scolopax sabinii*, while another furnished the type specimen of *Botaurus lentiginosus**. Lord Ilchester's swannery on the Fleet is probably unique in the world; for where else can be seen on one water upwards of a thousand living examples of *Cygnus olor*? Mr. Mansel-Pleydell has unwittingly deprived his county of the distinction of having produced the sole European specimen of *Picus pubescens*; for the specimen which he records as shot near Whitby was a *P. villosus* (cf. Zool. pp. 2496 and 2985). A complete account of the Birds of Dorsetshire has yet to be written; but when that is done the present treatise will give valuable aid to the author, whoever he may be.

The demand for works on the ornithology of particular districts seems to be ever on the increase; and within the last few years numbers of such books, of more or less merit, have made their appearance. The scene of Dr. Saxby's 'Birds of Shetland'† is well chosen, as the book treats of the ornithology of a group of islands situated at a sufficient distance from the mainland to render easy the question of boundaries, often perplexing to writers on county or local faunas.

The chief excellence of Dr. Saxby's book consists in its field-notes, which bear the stamp of having been written almost out of doors. This merit often carries with it a corresponding disadvantage, which we think observable in the present case. We notice a want of appreciation of the necessity of acquiring a well-digested knowledge of the external range of the birds found in the Shetland Islands. This is shown by the scanty references scattered through the work; Gray's 'Birds of the West of Scotland' is occasionally quoted. The birds of the Faroes are barely alluded to, still less those of Iceland or the Scandinavian peninsula. It is in the pages

* Montagu, Orn. Dict. App. pl.

† The Birds of Shetland, with Observations on their Habits, Migration, and occasional appearance. By the late Henry L. Saxby, M.D. Edited by his brother, Stephen H. Saxby, M.A. Edinburgh: 1874, 8vo, pp. 398.

of the 'Zoologist,' in which journal a large proportion of the notes in the present volume have appeared, that the author has sought his chief instruction. At the end of the work the editor has appended a list of the species observed in Shetland up to the present year; they are 202 in number, nearly a third of which were added to the Shetland list by Dr. Saxby. There are several birds included in the work, upon doubtful authority, which had better have been omitted altogether, such as the Cuneate-tailed Gull and Dusky Petrel; their insertion only gives rise to utterly unprofitable discussions as to whether the birds really were what the author supposed them to be.

In a note speculating on the origin of the name "Boatswain" as applied to the Arctic Skua, the Editor does not appear to be aware that the same name is applied universally by sailors to the perfectly (so far as Gulls are concerned) inoffensive Tropic birds (*Phaeton*). It is well known that the long tail-feathers of the bird of tropical seas are supposed to represent a marline spike. Whether the masterful manner of the Skua gained it the name of the "Bosen," and the long tail feathers were accounted for as being his marline spike, and the name was thus transferred to a bird which also carried a long tail, or the possession of a marline spike suggested the name of "Bosen" in both cases, it is difficult to decide. We have not been able to find any authority for the supposed Scandinavian name "Bosun," suggested by Mr. Stephen Saxby, which, if really in use, may be only an adaptation of the English word.

Mr. Brockholes's paper on birds observed in Wirral, Cheshire, forms No. 1 of the 'Proceedings of the Chester Society of Natural Sciences,' and contains notes on 168 species which have occurred in the district. Wirral, we believe, is that part of the county palatine which lies between the estuaries of the Dee and the Mersey. So situated, we should have thought the number would be larger; but to make it up the author has been compelled to enlist the Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*) in his forces, though he admits that he is "not certain that the bird referred to was really a wild one."

The notes do not seem to include any thing of novelty, the most remarkable facts mentioned (the breeding of *Tringa cinclus* and *Mareca penelope* in the district) having been before recorded on the author's authority in our pages (*Ibis*, 1865, pp. 438, 444).

On the completion of each of his great works, Mr. Gould has published the 'Introductions' in an octavo volume. This plan has been of great assistance to working ornithologists making references to such large books. The volume* now before us contains the introductory matter accompanying 'The Birds of Great Britain,' on the completion of which we have recently had occasion to congratulate Mr. Gould.

Since our last notice of Mr. Dresser's 'Birds of Europe'†, four more numbers have been issued.

A number of Sylviidæ are figured and treated of in these parts, including some Saxicolinæ, an intricate group which Mr. Dresser and Mr. Blanford have carefully worked out in a recently published part of the Zoological Society's 'Proceedings' (1874, p. 213 *et seqq.*). Progress is also made with the genus *Lagopus*; and interesting notes, illustrated by a plate, are given of the shedding and growth of the claws and the assumption of the feathers on the toes at certain seasons by *Lagopus albus*. The Corvidæ, Certhiidæ, Glareolidæ, Cuculidæ, Hirundinidæ, Accipitres, Sturnidæ, Cypselidæ, Anatidæ, Laridæ, and Procellariidæ, all come in for a share of attention. In the double number the profuse synonymy of that unfortunate bird, the Yellow-browed Warbler of Latham, *Phylloscopus superciliosus* (Gmelin) is very fully worked out by Lord Walden. The extent to which this poor bird has been misnamed can be realized by glancing at its list of synonyms, which occupy nearly two quarto pages of Mr. Dresser's work!

As we have frequently spoken in terms of praise of this admirable work, suffice it to say that the present numbers

* Introduction to the Birds of Great Britain. By John Gould. London: 1873. 8vo, pp. 135.

† A History of the Birds of Europe. By H. E. Dresser. Parts xxviii., xxix. & xxx. (double part), xxxi. May, July, and August, 1874.

evinced the same unflagging zeal and care on the part of the author which has characterized the earlier portion of the book.

Signor Adolfo Savi has published the first volume of an 'Ornitologia Italiana' * by his celebrated father, which on the latter's death was almost ready for the press, and shows that he laboured to the last with unabated energy in the field which saw some of his earliest successes more than fifty years ago; for his Catalogue of the Birds of Pisa appeared in 1823. The force of habit may naturally account for the old-fashioned arrangement of the Class continued in the present work. We have *Coracias* following the *Laniidæ*, and itself followed by the *Corvidæ*; next to them comes the "Tribù *Corticicoli*," made up of *Nucifraga* and *Sitta*—an odd conjunction; and the *Hirundinidæ* are placed between *Caprimulgus* and *Cypselus*; while the whole volume shows an almost unquestioning faith in the gospel according to Temminck's 'Manuel'—one of the most dangerous errors in which an ornithologist can indulge. But there is little use in criticising the adherence of veterans to their ancient ways. Almost all naturalists have but to live long enough to fall somewhat behind the age; and the venerable professor of Pisa was no exception. Still we should be misleading our readers if we were to induce the belief that the book is entirely antiquated. Very much is it otherwise, and we rejoice to see the adoption in it of many new ideas, not the least of which is that since Italy ceased to be the "geographical expression" it used to be termed, the author bethought him of extending his old 'Ornitologia Toscana' to an ornithology of the whole country; and the result is not unworthy of the regenerated nation. In his introduction Savi treats at some length on the method of dividing Birds into two great groups, *Altrices* and *Præcoces*, first instituted by Prof. Sundevall in 1836, and in 1840 adopted by Bonaparte†. Much is unquestionably to be urged in favour of

* *Ornitologia Italiana*, opera postuma del Prof. Comm. PAOLO SAVI, Senatore del Regno. Volume Primo. Firenze: 1873. 8vo, pp. 478.

† Mr. Newman has lately intimated (Zool. 1874, p. 4095) that this notion originated with him, and was propounded to the Zoological Society

such a separation of the Carinate Birds; but it is not easily carried out. Where are the *Caprimulgidæ* to be lodged? and what is to become of the *Steganopodes*? Doubtless one of these days such difficulties may be got over; but that happy time seems as yet far off, and for the present we are content to prefer the "anatomical" (which we trust we shall offend none by declaring to be the *true* "zoological") method to the so-called "physiological." In the hope that this notice may meet the eye of Signor Savi, though our pages seem to have been unknown to his father, we may suggest his inserting in page 435, line 20, the words "Savi's Warbler"—that being the name given by British ornithologists to one of their most valued treasures, to the history of which they have contributed not a little; and we can assure him on our own testimony that there is no doubt as to the parasitic habits of *Oxylophus glandarius* (cf. *Ibis*, 1859, p. 316). *A propos* of Prof. Savi and Italian ornithology, we may remark that there seems to have been an error, which was first pointed out by Dr. Salvadori (*Fauna d'Italia*: Uccelli, p. 76), in M. de Selys-Longchamps's paper in this Journal some years ago: for "Merle maritime" (*Ibis*, 1870, p. 452) we ought to read "Merlo montano."

Mr. Hume has recently published all the information he could rake together concerning the eggs and nests of Indian birds*. The object of the volume is to give information to his numerous correspondents as to the extent of his knowledge on these subjects, in order that they may supplement it by further observations and discoveries.

'The Birds of Great Britain' being now completed, Mr. Gould is turning his strength on to 'The Birds of Asia'†,

on the 12th of March, 1850. There can be no doubt of the inventor of the names "Hesthogenous" (!) and "Gymnogenous" having then conferred them on the two groups of birds, unconscious that his "*First Thoughts on the Physiological Classification of Birds*" had already occurred to the eminent Swedish naturalist above mentioned.

* Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds. By Allan Hume. Rough Draft. Part I. Calcutta: 1873. 8vo, pp. 236.

† The Birds of Asia. By John Gould. Part xxvi. Folio. London: Aug. 1st, 1874.

a work of indefinite dimensions, which, having now reached its twenty-sixth part, bids fair to be the most comprehensive, though not the most homogeneous, of all the colossal works of the author. One new species is described in this part and called *Paradoxornis austeni*, after Major Godwin-Austen, who discovered the species in the Naga Hills, near Kuchai, and at Shillong, in the Khasi Hills.

In 1865 M. Mulsant, in conjunction with the brothers Verrcaux, published a small volume entitled 'Essai d'une Classification Méthodique des Trochilidés ou Oiseaux-Mouches' (*cf.* Ibis, 1867, p. 126). In their introduction the authors referred to a forthcoming Monograph of these birds, the publication of which M. Mulsant, the sole survivor of the three, has now courageously commenced*.

It is contemplated that the whole work will comprise four volumes, each containing four livraisons. Each of the latter will be illustrated with four or five coloured plates containing figures of the chief genera; the total number of plates will therefore be about 72. Should, however, a sufficient number of subscribers be forthcoming, plates figuring all of the remaining species will be issued.

Though the 'Essai' contained some serious errors, it had the decided merit of being an attempt to give differential characters for the various genera and higher groups of Trochilidæ.

The new work does the same; but the primary divisions, as well as the genera, are defined by emphasizing characters not brought into the same prominence in the former essay. The feathering of the base of the beak was first used to form two tribes, "Trochiliens" and "Ornismiens;" now the shape of the tail-feathers is employed to indicate three such groups, called "Trochiliens," "Lophorniens," and "Ornismiens." The minor divisions are also defined from different characters, but still the method of treatment employed in their analysis

* Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux-Mouches ou Colibris constituant la famille des Trochilidés. Par E. Mulsant et feu Edouard Verreaux. Ouvrage publié par la Société Linnéenne de Lyon. 4to Livraisons 1, 2. Paris: 1873-4.

is the same. M. Mulsant adheres to his terms "mâchoire" for what we prefer to call the mandible of the beak, and "mandibule" for the upper mandible or maxilla, which is to be regretted, as ornithologists are not likely to adopt his nomenclature. A Latin description is given of each species as well as a French one. Minute measurements and full synonymy with references make this part of the work very complete. The geographical distribution of each species is also given; this is of course much more ample than in the former work, and, we are happy to add, more accurate; still we see room for improvement. We can hardly accept Guatemala as comprised within the range of *Eutoxeres aquila* without good authority; nor can we credit the statement that *Phaethornis eurynome* occurs in Chili; nor do we believe that *Campylopterus pampa* inhabits New Granada, it having not hitherto been found southward of the limits of Guatemala.

M. Mulsant does not follow Mr. Gould in his excessive multiplication of species, but goes further than any one has yet done in uniting birds hitherto supposed to be specifically distinct. We are not disposed to demur to this treatment, especially as all the so-called races or varieties are mentioned separately in the text attached to the species to which they are said to belong. Having thus briefly noticed the chief features of M. Mulsant's work, which will, when finished, be of great use to those studying this fascinating group of birds, we wish him all success in his undertaking.

After a long interval Professor Schlegel has resumed the issue of his well-known work, the 'Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle des Pays-Bas'*, the 10th livraison of which was published last year. The contents include the Aves Struthiones, the Columbæ, and a review of the Rapaces.

In continuing to place the Dodo and its allies with the Struthiones, Prof. Schlegel occupies what must, we believe, be now considered an isolated position—all who have recently studied the remains of these remarkable birds, with one accord

* Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle des Pays-Bas. Par H. Schlegel. Contenu de la 10^{me} Livraison: 1. Aves Struthiones, pp. 14; 2. Aves Columbæ, pp. 180; 3. Aves Rapaces (Révue), pp. 156. 8vo: Leyden, 1873.

placing them with or near the Columbæ. The position assigned to *Didus* with regard to the Struthionæ is still more singular, as the two genera *Didus* and *Pezophaps* are placed between *Rhea* and *Dromæus*.

Nor is this all; the genus *Pezophaps* is made to include *Aphanapteryx broeckii* (*A. imperialis*, v. Frauenfeld [cf. Ibis, 1869, p. 265, *et seq.*]), clearly a Ralline bird, and *Miserythrus leguati*, Alph. Milne-Edw. (*P. herberti*, Schl.), a species of the same affinities.

The richness of the Leyden Museum is well exemplified in the fact that the Columbæ are represented by no less than 2309 mounted specimens, skeletons, and crania. In treating this group, Professor Schlegel has followed the plan adopted in the previous portions of his work. In reading through the pages of the present part, we noticed the following points which appear worthy of comment:—

Ianthænas griseogularis, described in this Journal (Walden and Layard, Ibis, 1872, p. 104, t. 6) from the island of Negros, is here (p. 75) renamed *I. luzoniensis*. The reason for this proposed change is not very apparent; but we suppose that the specimen, having been acquired in 1862, had a MS. name bestowed upon it, which is now (1873) published for the first time. The title must, of course, be consigned from its birth to the limbo of synonyms.

A single specimen of *Chlorænas nigrirostris* from Guatemala is said to be one of the types of the species. This can hardly be the case, seeing that the bird from which Mr. Sclater took his description was obtained by M. Sallé in Mexico!

Peristera lansbergi (p. 139) is evidently *Peristera monde-toura*, Bp., a rare but widely distributed species, being found from Mexico to Bolivia (cf. *antea*, p. 99).

Peristera pentheria, Bp., is kept separate from *P. ruficauda* of the same author. Having seen the types in Paris, we believe them to be the sexes of one species, which should be referred to the genus *Zenaida* and stand as *Z. ruficauda*.

Melopelia meloda is united with *M. leucoptera*; but we believe they are quite distinct though congeneric species.

In his treatment of the species of the genus *Leptoptila* (p. 158 *et seqq.*) Prof. Schlegel has fallen into great confusion. The bird called *L. jamaicensis* is probably *L. verreauxi*. The true *L. jamaicensis*, probably the bird here called *L. albifrons*, is purely Antillean, whereas *L. verreauxi* is found in the northern portions of South America and as far north as Costa Rica, being replaced in Guatemala by *L. albifrons* (not the bird here so called). The bird called *L. cassini*, from Mexico (Guatemala?), is *L. cerviniventris*, as Prof. Schlegel would at once have seen had he possessed specimens from Panama. The genus *Geotrygon* is suppressed, and the species usually included in it are placed in *Starnaenas*, a name solely applicable to *S. cyanocephala*. This species alone, amongst American Pigeons, has reticulated tarsi, like *Goura*!

The last portion of this livraison contains a review of the Birds of Prey. We notice (p. 14) that Wagler's name *Scops trichopsis* is placed as a synonym of *S. flammeola*! this is quite wrong (*cf. anteà*, p. 314). The Kestrel of the Island of St. Vincent, of the Cape-Verd group, is characterized under the name of *Falco neglectus*; this Mr. Sharpe (Cat. B. i. p. 428) considers to be only a dark race of *F. tinnunculus*.

Circus poliopterus (p. 49), treated as a separate species, is the female of *C. cinereus*. *Astur hensti* (p. 62) is described as a new species from Madagascar; its nearest ally appears to be *A. palumbarius*.

The Sparrow-hawk from Bogotá, called (p. 70) *Nisus erythrocnemius*, must surely be *A. ventralis*. This, too, would have been apparent to Prof. Schlegel had he possessed Brazilian specimens.

All the North-American Buzzards except *B. lineatus* and *B. pennsylvanicus* are united to *B. borealis* (p. 107). These birds have been carefully worked out by Mr. Ridgway (N. Am. B. iii. p. 244 *et seq.*), whose views, by far the most correct, we believe, that have yet been published, differ widely from those of Professor Schlegel.

The appendix to Mr. Brenchley's 'Cruise of the Curaçoa'*

* Jottings during the Cruise of H.M.S. 'Curaçoa' among the South-Sea Islands in 1865. By Julius Brenchley, M.A. Large 8vo, pp. 474. London: 1873.

contains, amongst other articles, one by the late Mr. G. R. Gray on some of the birds collected during the voyage. Mr. Gray did not live to see his contribution through the press; but all of the new species seem to have been previously described in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' for 1870. These, as well as some others, are now illustrated on 21 excellent plates by Smit. The species figured are:—*Accipiter albogularis*, Gray, from San Christoval I.; *Collocalia hypoleuca*, Gray, from Uji or Gulf I., and *C. uropygialis*, Gray, from New Hebrides; *Eurystomus crassirostris*, Sel., from Uji; *Glyciphila caledonica*, Gray, from New Caledonia, and *G. flavotincta*, Gray, from Eramanga I.; *Philemon sclateri*, Gray, from San Christoval; *Anthochera aubryana*, J. Verr. & Desm., from New Caledonia; *Zosterops flavifrons*, Gmelin, from New Hebrides, and *Z. xanthochroa*, Gray, from New Caledonia; *Myiagra melanura*, Gray, from Vanua Lava, Banks's group, and *M. caledonica*, Bp., from New Caledonia; *Rhipidura spilodera*, Gray, from Vanua Lava; *Lalage banksiana*, Gray, from Vanua Lava; *Pachycephala chlorurus*, Gray, from New Hebrides; *P. moriariensis*, Verr. & Desm., from New Caledonia, and *P. xanthotræa*, Forster, from New Caledonia; *Eopsaltria caledonica*, Lath., from New Caledonia, and *E. cucullata*, Gray, from New Hebrides; *Lorius hypaenochrous*, Gray, from the Solomon Is.; *Trichoglossus massena*, Bp., from San Christoval and New Hebrides, and *T. palmarum*, Gmel., from New Hebrides; *Cuculus bronzinus*, Gray, from New Caledonia; *Carpophaga brenchleyi*, Gray, from San Christoval; *Macropygia crassirostris*, Gould, from the I. of Guadalcanar, Solomon Group; *Megapodius brenchleyi*, Gray, from Tanna and Sandwich* or Vate I., New Hebrides; and *Eulabeornis lafresnayanus*, Verr. & Desm., from New Caledonia.

We believe that many of the specimens collected by Mr. Brenchley are in the British Museum; the rest are to be seen in the museum at Maidstone, in Kent, of which Mr. Edward Bartlett is now Curator.

* Not the Sandwich Islands, as stated, Ibis, 1871, p. 440. ✓

Dr. Elliott Coues's 'Field Ornithology'* is an admirable manual, teaching the whole duty of an ornithologist in pursuit of his craft. Though the work professes to teach beginners, there are in its pages many suggestions of sound sense from which even practised hands may take some hints. The instructions laid down are excellent, as a whole; but at the risk of being called addicted to the use of a "nasty greasy substance," we must say we do not share the author's dislike to arsenical soap. Skins of tropical birds dressed with arsenical soap are certainly more pliant and less liable to crack than those treated with dry arsenic. Both preparations are probably equally efficacious in preventing the subsequent attacks of insects.

As regards these pests, we must say that our ornithological brethren in America are to be pitied, judging from a whole paragraph (p. 106) devoted to a description of the ravages committed by Tineidæ and Dermestidæ (*Dermestes* and *Anthrenus*) upon their bird-skins. Taking the destructiveness of insects as his text, Dr. Coues draws, in the final words of this part of his book, an admirable moral. The constant study of skins "is the best preventive," he says, "against 'bugs.'" "The very bugs," he adds, "urge on our work."

The second portion of 'Field Ornithology' contains a check-list of the birds found in North America. 635 species and "varieties" are included in the ornis of North America, amongst which are many of the latter. It may be remarked that in this list the new Transatlantic system of nomenclature is here carried to its full extent. Alas for the binominal system of Linnaeus, when we find that the Latin equivalent of the Californian Jay has to be expressed as "*Aphelocoma floridana*, Bartram, Cabanis, variety *californica*, Vigors, Coues"! A return to the nomenclature of the days of Ray would be a relief to this.

Another work by the same prolific author is an account of the ornithology of the Prybilov Islands†. We believe that

* Field Ornithology, &c. By Dr. Elliott Coues, U. S. A. 8vo, pp. 116 & 137. Salem, Mass.: 1874.

† Ornithology of the Prybilov Islands. By Dr. Elliott Coues, U. S. A. Oblong 4to. 1873.

only an extremely limited number of copies of this pamphlet have been printed. The one before us is made up of printer's proofs sent by the author to Mr. Dresser. This is to be regretted, as the chief portion of the paper consists of notes of birds observed and collected by Mr. W. H. Elliott, many of which are interesting, especially those on the singular Alcidae of the North Pacific. In this paper, too, *Tringa ptilocnemis* is described for the first time by Dr. Coues. This species has already to carry a synonym, it having been described by Mr. Harting, from Mr. Elliott's specimens sent to him by the Smithsonian Institution, as *Tringa gracilis* (P. Z. S. 1874, p. 242, Aug. 1st).

XLV.—Letters, Announcements, &c.

The following letters, addressed "To the Editor of 'The Ibis,'" have been received:—

DEAR SIR,—Allow me to make a few observations upon some of the birds referred to in 'The Ibis' for April 1874.

PHYLLOPNEUSTE BOREALIS, Blasius, p. 140.

Lord Walden of course knows that *P. magnirostris*, Blyth, is exceedingly like *P. borealis*—so much so, that Mr. Hume ('Stray Feathers,' i. p. 495) confounded the two. I am anxious to know if Lord Walden is certain in this identification of No. 79 as *P. borealis*.

I examined a few of Mr. Swinhoe's Chinese examples of *P. borealis* (*P. sylvicultrix*, Swinhoe) in the Indian Museum; and although of the same size and colour, between the two birds I found the following differences:—

1. The first primary of *P. borealis* is very minute, and almost *Acrocephalus*-like, as in *P. sibilatrix*; while in *P. magnirostris* it is of tolerable size and *Hypolais*-like, as in *H. polyglotta* and *H. rama*.

2. The 2nd quill of *P. borealis* is equal in length to midway between 5th and 6th, as in *P. trochilus*; while in *P. magnirostris* the 2nd quill is about equal to the 9th, the latter bird's wing being more rounded.